

9. RE-APPEARANCES OF THE HAIRCRESTED, OR SPANGLED, DRONGO [*DICRURUS HOTTENTOTTUS* (LINNAEUS)] IN KUTCH

I have been watching with great interest the more or less regular appearances of *Dicrurus hottentottus* (Linnaeus) in Kutch during the last few years. Since I collected the first bird on December 29, 1956 [*J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 55 (3) : 575] I have come across the Haircrested Drongo on 25 December 1958 and 30 January 1959, and in December 1961 and January 1962. I have toured the whole district off and on during the last four years but curiously enough I have not come across this bird anywhere except at Mandvi. While on a visit to Mandvi from 24 December 1962 to 7 January 1963 I once again saw my old friends. At first I saw only two birds on 24 December from the back verandah of Vijaya Vilas Palace, but later on when I went into the garden to have a closer look at them I saw one more bird and noticed that all the three more or less kept together. During the whole of my stay at Mandvi I heard them calling and saw them practically every day; but they were absent when I went there again in the middle of February.

JUBILEE GROUND,

BHUJ, KUTCH,

October 20, 1963.

M. K. HIMMATSINHJI

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10. ANGRY BEHAVIOUR OF HOUSE CROW *CORVUS SPLENDENS VIEILLOT*

I work in an office in a street just off Sir Pherozeshah Mehta Road. A few days ago, when I was relaxing on the terrace, a house crow (*Corvus splendens* Vieillot) alighted on the parapet. The bird was very agitated, and was cawing loudly. The reason was evidently the feather that had been passed through its nostrils by some practical joker. For some minutes the crow fluttered up and down, trying to wipe off the feather against the edge of the expanding metal awning over my head. It then tried the metal supports of the awning, where two strips of metal came together, and soon managed to get the feather caught in the chink between them and so drew it out. It proceeded to make a determined attack on the feather. For some time, continuing its frenzied cawing, it worried the feather, trying repeatedly to push it back into the chink, dropping it and catching it as it fell—almost as if it wanted to punish the feather. At last